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BOOK REVIEWS

Street Railway Reports (Annotated). Vol. VII, pp. 1022. Matthew Bender & Company. Albany, N. Y.

A new volume is added to this valuable compilation of Federal and State decisions, covering in a thorough manner important cases in which street railways and electric railways generally are involved. It contains an index to the special notes in the entire set and has an adequate general index.

P. R. B.

Guide to the Law and Legal Literature of Germany. By Edwin M. Borchard, Law Librarian, Library of Congress. Washington. Government Printing Office. 1912. pp. 226.

The Guide under review was intended to fill the need that has grown up with the industrial revolution and the increase of international commerce, of an explanatory treatise on the legal situation in the German Empire—the start in a series of guides to foreign law. The title of the work is somewhat misleading; for in scope it is not a guide to German Law, as such, but is rather a history and a compilation of German legal bibliography.

The author however has succeeded in what he has specially undertaken. He has compiled a very complete digest of the German codes, devoting an interesting section to the great Civil Code, which was compiled in 1877 along with the Federal Code of Criminal Procedure, a Federal Judiciary Act, and a Bankruptcy Act. Dr. Fisher authoritatively states, with reference to the Civil Code:

“Never yet has so much first rate brain power been put into an act of legislation.”

The commercial and industrial codes of the empire are in turn considered. Withal, Mr. Borchard shows plainly the German legal situation, where decisions as precedents play a very small part, and where statutes and customs, both national and local, serve as high signs for the investigator.